The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, there was a writ pending in the High Court and pending a decision on that, the Government thought that it was not advisable to extend the application of the Madras Commercial Crops Markets Act to pepper. I would tell the hon. Member that the Government would take up the question of extending this Act to pepper if really the growers would feel that it is to their interests."

Sri T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" The Hon. Minister was saying that pepper was not notified as a commercial crop since a report has been received from the Director of Agriculture. May I know what the recommendations of the Director of Agriculture were and were they to the effect that pepper should not be notified as a commercial crop? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Whatever be the recommendations of the Director of Agriculture or the Collector, there was a writ pending in the High Court and pending a decision on that, the Government took a decision not to extend this Act to pepper."

Sri O. KORAN :—" May I know, Sir, what is the quantity of pepper produced annually in that area? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would like to have notice."

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Are not the Government aware that there were similar protests when this Act was extended to copra in Malabar and in spite of the protests, a Marketing Committee was appointed and now it is working safely to the interests of the producers? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" That was a different matter. The vested interests concerned, i.e., those dealing in copra did not choose to go to the Court."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Arising out of the answer given by the Hon. Minister, will the Minister be pleased to adduce proper reasons for the phenomenal rise in the price of pepper in the recent past? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Perhaps, Sir, more people are going in for more pepper. I cannot adduce any further reason."

Land Reforms in State.

* 417 [a] *Q.*—Sri T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any communication from the Planning Commission regarding the introduction of comprehensive land reforms in the State;

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[a] **Starred questions postponed from the list for 26th March 1954.**

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(*b*) what reforms the Government propose to undertake as laid down in the Five-Year Plan; and

(*c*) whether the Government have now arrived at any decision regarding the implementation of the recommendations of the Subramaniam Committee?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) Yes. The Government of India forwarded the recommendations of the Planning Commission on Land Reforms and commended the same for adoption by this Government.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The recommendations of the Planning Commission are generally covered by the recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee and they have been taken into account while examining the reports of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee. The Government will be taking decisions on the recommendations of the Land Revenue Reforms Committee shortly."

SRI T. ANANTA PAI :—" Sir, three years out of the Five-Year Plan period are already over. Will the Government take necessary action immediately to implement at least the major decision regarding ' fair rent ' and ' security of tenure ' so far as land reforms are concerned? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Two years are still left and it is understood that decisions will be taken after the Budget Session is over."

SRI K. VENKATRAMANA GOWDA :—" May I know whether it is the view of the Government to await the contemplated land reforms for introducing the Comprehensive Tenancy Bill for South Kanara and, if so, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state when the Bill is proposed to be introduced? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" The intention is not to evade but, on the other hand, to implement."

SRI P. G. MANICKAM :—" கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே, ஆதி காலத்தில் வனாந்திரமாகக் கிடந்த காடுகளை நெற்றி வேர்வை நிலத்தில் விழப் பாடுபட்டு சீர்திருத்தி விவசாய நிலங்களாகப் பண்படுத்தினவர்கள் ஹரிஜனங்களேயாவார்கள். இந்த விவசாய நிலங்களிலே 100-க்கு 50 விகிதம் ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய சொந்தப் பூமிகளாக இருந்ததற்கு அத்தாட்சிகள் தேவைப்படுமானால் சுமார் 100 வருஷங்களுக்குட்பட்ட கிரய சாசனப் பதிவு (ரிஜிஸ்டிரேஷன்) ரிக்கார்டுகளை பரிசோதித்தால் தெரியவரும். இவ்வாறிருந்த ஹரிஜனங்களுடைய நிலங்கள் காலப் போக்கிலே பற்பலவித காரணங்களாலே மாற்றமடைந்து தற்போது மற்ற ஜாதிகளுடைய சொந்த நிலங்களாக இருந்து வருகின்றன. இந்த நிலங்கள் யாவும் மறுபடியும் ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கே கிடைப்பதற்கு நிலச் சீர்திருத்தத்தின் கீழ் நடவடிக்கை எடுப்பதற்கு Planning Commission-க்கு சர்க்கார் ஆலோசனை கூறுவார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Not only Harijans but other people also have reclaimed lands. The hon. Member made a long speech. I am not able to fully understand that but I may state that it will also come under the Five-Year Plan and the reforms to be undertaken."

10-30 a.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" There is only half an hour more. I want to finish the rest of the questions within that time. Question No. 420."

Women's Welfare Centres in the Tanjore district.

* 420 *Q.*—SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition be pleased to state the total number of Women's Welfare Centres in Tanjore district during 1952–53?

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Five Women's Welfare Branches consisting of eight centres."

SRI K. R. SAMBANDAM :—" What are the functions of the Women Welfare Centres? Are the Government directly financing these centres? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" As for the activities of the Women Welfare Centres I may state that social education, citizenship training, community behaviour, adult education and adult literacy are carried out in those centres. Civic duties are encouraged, that is, co-operation with public authorities in regard to sanitation, public health, education, hospital visiting, etc., celebration of common festivals, days of national importance, excursions, competitions and news-hour discussions, debates and lectures are managed. Adult education is provided. Literacy work in the centres is very popular. Subsidiary (Cottage) industries to enable the poor to earn a small income are carried out. House to house visit is done by the field staff. As for the second part of the question, it is entirely the expenditure of Government."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMY NAYAGAR :—" தஞ்சை ஜில்லா கிராமப் புறங்களில் கள்ளச் சாராயம் காய்ச்சுவது ஒரு குடிசைத் தொழிலாக மாறி வருகிறது. மதுவிலக்கு வெற்றி பெறவேண்டுமானால் இந்த Women's Welfare Centres மூலமாக மதுவிலக்கின் அவசியத்தைப்பற்றிப் பிரசாரம் செய்யும்படி இந்த Association-னுக்கு அரசாங்கம் உத்தரவு பிறப்பிக்குமா ? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Yes, Sir. There is also a proposal to that effect. If the hon. Members also do some propaganda in their respective constituencies, it willl be helpful."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Are males employed as officers in these centres? "

THE HON. SRIMATHI JOTHI VENCATACHELLUM :—" Sir, the name itself is ' women welfare centre ' and not ' men welfare centre '." (Laughter.)

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Of the functions of the women welfare officers read out by the Hon. the Minister for Prohibition, we find that one important aspect, viz., family planning is left out.